

EDITORIAL.

OUR READERS will see by reference to a preceding page that one of the recommendations of the Committee on Bibliography which was approved by the Madison Botanical Congress is to be carried into effect at once. This is the publication of an author-catalogue of botanical papers relating to American botany. It has been of great advantage to botanists to have for reference the useful index to literature relating to American botany, which has been for several years a feature of the *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club. (We might take this opportunity, by the way, to express our pleasure that the doubts we possessed as to the permanence of this department at its inception have proved to be entirely unfounded.) This index is now to be made as complete as the co-operation of a number of specialists can make it. What is of equal, if not of greater, importance is that the type already set up for this monthly index is to be used in printing the entries on index cards, and these cards are put on the market therefore at a cost far below what it would be if the matter had to be collated and printed separately.

IN THE PRODUCTION of this highly desirable result several factors have co-operated. In the first place, the editor who directs, and the members of the Torrey Botanical Club who support the *Bulletin* ought to receive the thanks of botanists. In the second place, even this first step would probably not have been taken had it not been for the Botanical Congress which briefly discussed the matter of bibliography last summer. For this Congress gave opportunity for the expression of approval which encouraged the editor of the *Bulletin* to preserve a department which he was tempted to abandon on account of the immense amount of work it entailed and the desirable space it occupied. It also gave occasion for the appointment of a committee on bibliography, in conference with whom Dr. Britton agreed to the typographical changes which have made the issuance of these cards possible. And finally, it is through the efforts of a member of this committee that the distribution and sale of the cards has been arranged with the Cambridge Botanical Supply Co.

The GAZETTE desires in every way to promote the success of this first venture which is the earnest, we trust, of yet more abundant harvests to be reaped through the cordial co-operation of generous-souled workers.

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THE WRITER in *Zoe*, "K. B.," who writes sneeringly of the botanical gatherings of the past summer appears sadly out of harmony with the spirit of the times among the botanists. Her envenomed pen stabs

chiefly at one, it is true. A more unscientific and unlovely spectacle it would be hard to find, than this disparagement of fifty or sixty other botanists because they choose to honor, however slightly, one whom she dislikes. Such bitter personalities only awaken compassion and stir regret; they are now-a-days unworthy of rejoinder.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

A Cuban text-book on botany.

An interesting phase of development of botanical teaching on this side of the Atlantic, is denoted by the recently issued text "Elementos de Botánica" part 1, by Dr. Juan Vilaró Díaz, of the University of Havana.

In a lengthy preface, Dr. de la Maza states that the work is called out by the want of a text in Spanish, and by the fact that foreign texts use, for illustration of plant phenomena, forms with which the Cuban student can not become familiar, and are otherwise unsuitable to accompany the courses of lectures in natural history offered in that University. Quite naturally he holds that the student can derive more practical advantage and general instruction from a study of the "forms that live in the beautiful climate of the magnificent Antilles."

The author divides the subject into static and dynamic botany. The volume just issued is concerned with the first, which it considers under the heads of cellulography, anatomy, morphology, embryology.

The relationship of the cell constituents is clearly outlined, and the author extends the text to include brief discussion of phases of the behavior and products of protoplasm, which do not usually find a place in elementary works. As an instance, under colors are paragraphs on pigments, origin and biological significance of colors, illumination, etiolation, protective colors, preventive colors, sexual colors typical colors, and attractive colors.

Throughout the entire work, forms and their relations are correlated with the more general functions of the organs in a manner that is very attractive. The economic relations of the plant are everywhere touched upon, and the author makes quite an excursion into the "tropisms," movements and carnivorous action. Under the latter head a cut and some interesting matter on the carnivorous action of *Pinguicula*, is taken from the U. S. Fish Commission report for 1885.

It could not be expected that the author of a pioneer text in such a musical language, would deny himself the privilege of introducing some new terms into our hazy terminology. He has, however, but